

Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, the Group I claims, namely Claims 78-97 for prosecution on the merits.

Applicants further amend claims 97 and 98, as well as add new claim 99 for consideration by the Examiner. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, a clean set of pending claims is hereby provided below. A marked up version of the amended claims 97 and 98 is attached as Exhibit A.

IN THE CLAIMS

78. A microparticle comprising a core and electrochemiluminescent moieties within said core.

79. The microparticle of claim 78, wherein said electrochemiluminescent moieties are blended within said core.

80. The microparticle of claim 78, wherein said core is polymeric and said electrochemiluminescent moieties are blended within said core.

81. The microparticle of claim 78, wherein said core comprises plastic and said electrochemiluminescent moieties are blended with said plastic to form said core.

82. The microparticle of claim 78, wherein said electrochemiluminescent moieties are enclosed within said core.

83. The microparticle of claim 78, wherein said core is a liposome and said electrochemiluminescent moieties are enclosed within said liposome.

84. The microparticle of claim 78, wherein said core comprises pores and said electrochemiluminescent moieties are enclosed within said pores.

85. The microparticle of claim 78, wherein said electrochemiluminescent moieties comprises transition metals.

86. The microparticle of claim 78, wherein said electrochemiluminescent moieties comprises Ru, Os, or Re.
87. The microparticle of claim 78, wherein said core is electrically conductive.
88. The microparticle of claim 78, wherein said core comprises metal.
89. The microparticle of claim 78, wherein said core comprises gold, silver, platinum, palladium, zinc, iron, nickel, lead or copper.
90. The microparticle of claim 78, wherein said core comprises gold, silver, platinum, or palladium.
91. The microparticle of claim 78, wherein said core comprises gold.
92. The microparticle of claim 78, wherein said core comprises carbon.
93. The microparticle of claim 78, wherein said core comprises carbon black, graphitic nanotubes or fullerenes.
94. The microparticle of claim 78, further comprising an assay ligand.
95. The microparticle of claim 94, wherein said assay ligand is selected from the group consisting of proteins, nucleic acids, lipids, steroids, carbohydrates, porphyrins, alkaloids, nucleotides, nucleosides, amino acids, fatty acids, viruses, microorganisms, biological cells, and subcellular particles.
96. The microparticle of claim 94, wherein said assay ligand is selected from the group consisting of proteins and nucleic acids.

97. (Once Amended) An assay composition comprising the microparticle of claim 78 and at least one assay component selected from the group consisting of electrochemiluminescence co-reactant and binding reagent.